

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O 011555Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8229

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, RH, WA, SF

SUBJECT: GARBA'S COMMENTS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA

1. AT A DINNER FOR THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON APRIL 30,
COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA TOLD THE ASSEMBLED
AMBASSADORS THAT HE HAD BEEN MUCH ENCOURAGED BY THE RECENT
DAR ES SALAAM MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON RHODESIA.
HE SAID THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL CON-
CESSIONS ON FOUR ISSUES AT THAT MEETING: THE POWERS OF
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THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, THE PRESENCE OF UN FORCES, THE
COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL, AND THE
COMPOSITION OF THE POLICE FORCE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ALONG THE LINES OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PROPOSALS COULD BRING FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS
A SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.

2. GARBA WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC IN HIS STATEMENTS REGARDING NAMIBIA. HE SPOKE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL AS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BRING RESULTS.

3. GARBA MENTIONED IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE TWO SUBJECTS THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY GRATIFIED BY THE EXCELLENT MEETINGS HE HAD HAD DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN WASHINGTON AND IN LONDON.

4. COMMENT: GARBA'S REMARKS ON RHODESIA APPEARED PRIMARILY INTENDED TO COUNTER AN IMPRESSION SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE GAINED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S INTRANSIGENCE AT DAR HAD ENDED ANY HOPE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. HE CLEARLY SOUGHT TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PF WAS DOING ITS FULL PART AND THAT HE EXPECTED THE UK AND THE US TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS. HIS REMARKS ON NAMIBIA SIMILARLY SOUGHT TO COUNTER IMPRESSIONS WHICH SOME GOVERNMENTS MIGHT HAVE FORMED THAT THE CONTACT GROUP'S EFFORTS MUST NOW TERMINATE IN VIEW OF SWAPO'S ATTITUDE.

5. WHEN GARBA FINISHED HIS REMARKS THEY WERE PROMPTLY REPEATED IN FRENCH BY AN INTERPRETER. THIS APPEARED AN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO PLEASE THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES, WITH WOM NIGERIA HAS HAD DIFFICULT RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE ITS CAPTURE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT.
WYMAN

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